



IOWA
Department of
Natural Resources

Environmental Management Systems Pilot Program

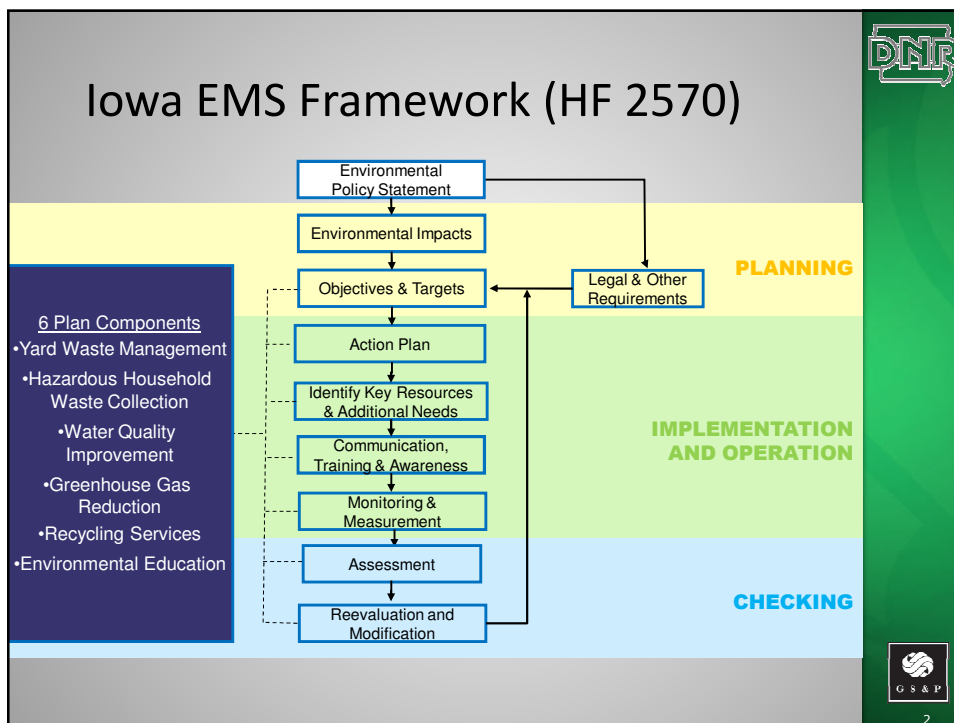
The EMS Environmental Policy Statement

Pilot Kick-off Workshop
November 17-18, 2009





**GRESHAM
SMITH AND
PARTNERS**



Environmental Policy

- ◉ The Environmental Policy is a Statement of Management's Commitment to the Environment
 - It Can be Used to Educate Staff and the Public
- ◉ The Policy Should be Documented and Approved by the Appropriate Level of Management
- ◉ Environmental Policies Vary Greatly From Organization to Organization



HF 2570 Essentials

- ◉ Environmental Policy Statement: Statement by the organization of its intentions and principles in relation to its overall environmental performance which provides a framework for action and for the setting of its environmental objectives and targets, and its commitment to continual improvement through the EMS.



Things to Consider

- ✓ The Policy Should Express Overarching Management Commitments
- ✓ Set a Policy that Reflects Size and Scope of the Operations
- ✓ Establish a Framework for Action and Setting Objectives and Targets Environmental Goals and Associated Actions
- ✓ Must Commit to Continual Improvement
- ✓ Ability to Use the Policy for Communication
- ✓ How Are You Going to Use the Policy?



The Policy Should Express Overarching Management Commitments

- ◉ Should Reflect Organization and Operational Realities
- ◉ Review Existing Management Commitments to the Environment
 - Are There Commitments to Sustainability?
 - Commitment to Environmental Compliance?
 - Others?
- ◉ If There are No Existing Documented Commitments
 - Start with Compliance
 - Consider Verbal Directives



Set a Policy that Reflects Size and Scope of the Operations

- Ten Pages for 15 Employees is Probably Over Committing
- The Policy Should Be Approved at the Appropriate Management Level
 - Staff Level
 - Director Level
 - City Council



Establish a Framework for Action and Setting Objectives and Targets

- Overall Statement of How Objectives and Targets will be Set and Progress Measured
- Example: “Objectives and Targets Will be Set by Staff and Progress Measured and Reporting Annually”



Commitment to Continual Improvement through the EMS

- ◉ Simply State “Commitment to Continual Improvement using the EMS”
- ◉ Or Expand
 - “We will Continually Improve our Environmental Performance Through the Use of our EMS by....”



How Are You Going to Use the Policy?

- ◉ Meet Iowa Requirements!!!
- ◉ Educate Staff
- ◉ Educate the Public
- ◉ Performance Evaluations
- ◉ Bring Along Naysayers
- ◉ Organize and Direct Environmental Programs



Example #1

The Organization will implement an Environmental Management System (EMS) to best serve its customers solid waste needs. The Organization is committed to:

- Improving its environmental performance,
- Providing excellent service, and
- Following best practices to manage the area's solid waste.



Example #2

By implementing and maintaining an Environmental Management System we are committed to an ongoing effort of promoting environmental responsibility as an organization as well as emphasizing a heightened environmental awareness to interested parties and stakeholders.

We will demonstrate our commitment to this policy through:

- Regulatory Compliance – We will meet or exceed applicable regulatory requirements,
- Prevention of Pollution – We will identify and prevent or minimize pollution in areas attributed to our operations, wherever feasible, and
- Continual Improvement – We will continue to seek out ways to improve our environmental performance using this policy as the basis upon which we set our objectives and targets.



Environmental Policy “Best Practices”

- ⦿ No More Than One Page
- ⦿ Don’t Over Commit
- ⦿ Careful of Using “Ensure”
- ⦿ Signature at the Bottom to Indicate Approval
- ⦿ Post Policy with Other Employee Information
- ⦿ Fit the Policy to Your Organization
 - Inspirational
 - Instructional
 - Regulatory
 - Combination?
- ⦿ Recognize that Change May be Difficult



QUESTIONS?



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